

Bryan Daily Eagle

AND PILOT
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SEEKING THE PRESIDENCY BY THE PLATE MATTER ROUTE

Some time ago The Eagle received and rejected a proposition to publish plate matter, furnished free of charge, in the interest of Governor Harmon's candidacy for the presidency. We were not surprised at this because we knew the strongest forces behind Governor Harmon regard such methods of seeking office, even the highest office on earth, as perfectly legitimate. But this morning we were surprised and pained by receiving a similar proposition in behalf of Governor Wilson, of New Jersey. We were surprised because Governor Wilson had said that he would not seek the nomination—that no man is big enough to seek it—which is exactly our opinion. We were pained because if this method of campaigning is used with his knowledge and consent he is not the man we have taken him to be.

The Eagle was one of the first, if not the very first, papers in the United States to express the opinion that Governor Wilson was the best man to lead the democratic hosts to victory next year. This opinion was founded on



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the belief that in him were embodied the highest and best ideals of democracy, among which is that "the office should seek the man." If Governor Wilson has descended from the lofty eminence on which his public utterances and acts have placed him and has entered into a scramble for the presidency, we have been deceived in him. For the present, however, in the absence of information as to whether he is responsible for the objectionable methods used in his behalf, we give him the benefit of the doubt.

We do not question the right of Governor Wilson and that of his friends to give the people of the United States opportunity to learn as much about him as is possible, by means that are open and above board. Some of his opponents criticized him for his transcontinental tour, claiming that it was for electioneering purposes. Such, no doubt, it was, to the extent of giving the people an opportunity to see and hear him and judge of his fitness for the presidency; but neither on this tour nor at any other time has he said or done anything in public (nor in private, so far as we know) that is unworthy of a man in his position.

Why, then, do we object to the plate matter method? Simply because it is not, like a speaking tour and like free discussion in the newspapers, open and aboveboard. It is an organized effort, requiring the expenditure of a large amount of money to influence public opinion without the people knowing the source from which the information comes. When Governor Wilson speaks or when an editor writes concerning him, the people know just where to place the responsibility for what is said and how much credence ought to be given it. But it is not so with plate matter furnished by a syndicate to all the newspapers that will publish it. The readers of a newspaper are not supposed to know the difference between plate matter and matter set up in the composing room, after being carefully edited; there is therefore, in the plate matter method of publicity an element of deception, unworthy of a great man or a great cause.

Another thing the people have a right to know is, where does the money come from to pay for the plate matter? It is supposable that those who furnish it expect to be reimbursed or compensated in some way. The candidate nominated and elected by such means owes his office to those who by the use of money secured his election. Certainly the president of the United States ought not to go into office encumbered by such obligations.

We have most earnestly desired, and still desire, the nomination and election of Governor Wilson, because, as at present advised, we do not hold him responsible for this effort of his misguided friends. The excuse that "such a request has been preferred to many democratic editors, perhaps to yourself, by a representative of another distinguished democrat who aspires to the nomination," is not sufficient. This means, of course, that it is lawful to fight the devil with fire. Our belief is that fire is the proper element of the devil and that truth is the only weapon with which to fight him successfully.

Governor Colquitt celebrated Emancipation Day by granting pardons to twenty aged negroes who had been for many years in the penitentiary and had no friends to intercede for them. Granting that all those negroes were bad and were justly convicted, there is no good in keeping them in prison when they are too old to do harm. The only question that can be raised as to the wisdom of this exercise of executive clemency is whether the pardoned negroes are able to provide for themselves or will become objects of charity. We suppose, though, that the governor considered this point.

On Sunday and Monday four names were added to the already long list of the martyrs of aviation, yet the decimated band is undaunted and will continue to attempt the conquest of the air. It is almost enough to cause the world to revert to the ancient belief that the upper regions of the atmosphere are inhabited by malign spirits which delight to destroy foolhardy men who invade their dominions.

The governor of Nebraska, in an address to the graduating class of the university of Ohio, declared that the United States senate is the most trusted legislative body in the world. How could it be otherwise when men are sent to the senate who say they can serve at the same time both the people and the outlawed corporations?

Cone Johnson included Culberson in his challenge to a joint discussion of statewide prohibition, but this was a simple courtesy. Joe Bailey is the man Cone is after. Cone has everything to gain and nothing to lose by a debate with Bailey, while with Bailey it is just the reverse, and Bailey knows it.

Prof. Rivers Allen has called our attention to this apothegm of Emerson: "Let a man keep the law—any law—and his way will be strewn with satisfactions." The human heart craves law; it is a condition of our being; we cannot enjoy life without it.

The democrats of the house are earning not only their salaries but also the gratitude of the honest people of the country by exposing the corruption with which every department of the government seems to be reeking.

If there can be organic union of the Episcopalians, Presbyterians and Congregationalists of Canada, why can't the Baptists of all kinds, especially the Missionaries and the Freewillers, unite?

There will be fun for the people of Texas if Cone Johnson and Joe Bailey ever get into swatological juxtaposition—and if they don't, it will not be Cone's fault.

New Jersey is troubled with a plague of rattlesnakes. Possibly the incarnation of the grafts, peculations and other rascalities Governor Woodrow Wilson has dug up in that state.

Possibly the great American novel will never be written. A true history of the American people is better than any novel that ever was or ever can be written.

There is a suspicion that the Texas Company will become the standard oil company, but will not print it in capital letters.

Consuelo Vanderbilt, the divorced duchess, would rather be first in Newport than be snubbed by the queen in London.

The trouble with the Mexicans who dislike Madero seems to be that he can't give every one of them an office.

The showers have skipped Brazos county, but Brazos county can stand it better than any other county.

CONTRIBUTED BY COMMERCIAL SECRETARIES

To look at the world's commerce through our ports, is like looking at the stars through a telescope and to see the gigantic improvements going on at our seaports gives one confidence in the future of Texas. At Port Arthur, the Kansas City Southern is spending \$2,000,000 in terminal facilities. The Gulf Refining company is digging a canal from the turning basin to their plants, which will permit vessels of twenty-five foot draught to land at their refinery and they are building concrete wharves almost a half mile in length to accommodate their shipping business. The Texas company is largely increasing the capacity of their plant. The three companies now have under way improvements that will aggregate between four and five million dollars. When these triple giants spend millions in improvements that will last a century or more, it indicates that men with great business acumen can see far into the future. After all, appreciating Texas is largely a question of mental ability.

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The Gulf Refining company at Port Arthur has erected a handsome club house, elegantly furnished with all modern appliances and conveniences for use of their employees. This sort of philanthropy is soul material for corporations and has in it a touch of human nature that makes employer and employee kin.

How to meet the demand for good roads is the question that is receiving the greatest attention from state and county officials and the public generally. It is the question of paramount importance on the industrial horizon today.

POLITICAL NEWS AND NOTES

Republicans are rejoicing over the induction of democratic leaders to support Harmon or Wilson.

Democrats are laughing up their sleeves over the predicament they claim their leaders have gotten the republicans into over the tariff.

It is said that Governor Wilson's commendation of certain editors for the independence they have shown in criticizing public men and his declaration for publicity as one of the chief safeguards of the people, will lose him the support of certain governors in the southern states.

Ohio progressives have started a campaign to obtain a more liberal constitution for their state next year. Persons of every political party who believe that the new constitution should be drafted in the interest of the people rather than of special privileges have banded together in the campaign.

Governor Colquitt has refused to permit the Methodist church, of which he is a member, to expel him without a fight from membership because of his political views regarding prohibition. Colquitt made his race for the nomination on the prohibition question, taking the antiprohibition side. For his fight for the anti he has been severely criticised and asked to resign from the Methodist church.

From now on to the time of the meeting of the national democratic convention a year hence, there promises to be a merry war between Governor Harmon, of Ohio, and William Jennings Bryan. Mr. Bryan has lost no time in announcing that he will not be a candidate for the presidential nomination again, but he does not like Harmon, and Harmon has already given notice that there is no love lost between himself, Bryan and Governor Wilson of New Jersey. He will stand on his record as a progressive, and one of the proudest things to which he directs emphasis is the series of bills—17 in all—which he has forced through after Ohio had vainly demanded their passage for years.

DEER GOT THE MILK

Farmer Found Out What Trouble Was With Cow.

Bedford, Pa., June 20.—For some days Hart Bush, a farmer at Oppenheim, this county, had found no milk from his cow at milking time. The cow was kept in a field near the home and it was thought the calf had stolen it. At once it was locked up in the barn. Yesterday morning Mrs. Bush thought she saw in the early dawn the calf with the cow and started to drive it off, when a large deer lightly leaped a fence and made off.

INVOKES THE GOLDEN RULE

To Settle Campaign Fight Over Prohibition Dispute.

Two enthusiastic future citizens were before his honor, the mayor, this morning on the charge of engaging in an affray which resulted from an animated discussion of the prohibition question. Aside from a long series of fiery words, several blows were exchanged, but the young enthusiasts were separated before any serious damage was inflicted.

In calling the case the mayor delivered a short lecture to the young men in which he insisted on applying the Golden Rule to their future deportment.

The defendants in the case, after some hesitancy, finally agreed to accept the conditions imposed by the mayor and the cases were held in abeyance. The mayor spoke as follows:

"From time immemorial, difference in opinions has caused wars and rumors of wars. Young blood runs riot, while older heads become intolerant, yet the 'field of honor' does not settle the question at issue. There is only one rule that can be invoked, which at all times would settle controversies, and that is the 'Golden Rule.' You two young gentlemen have violated, not only the laws of the state, but you have been generous enough to each other to apply the principles enunciated in that wonderful injunction, 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' To test your repentance, I am going

to propose your right in a hearty handshake and forget you are to be Sunday school boys for a while."

When you cases in court the month fully performed be dismissed.

MADE FOR

New York Nutt went other day to sentence a while he McNutt is ventor of tank. Six on the climbing succeeded to time, court of N prison wa to go to. ous slays venting tank, which in the Since his made a but he go the best him from half years

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